

**Virginia Commission for the Arts**  
**Minutes**  
**October 6, 2009**  
**Virginia Center for Architecture, Richmond**

**Members Present:** Nick Covatta, Chair; Lisa Alderman, Willie Dell, Tina Lea, Evelia Gonzalez Porto, Ann Edwards Rust, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Marcia Thalhimer; Ann Bondurant Trinkle, Vaughan Webb, and Deborah Wyld

**Members Absent:** Gwen Everett

**Staff Present:** Peggy Baggett, Foster Billingsley, Elizabeth Cantile, Tiffany Glass Ferreira, and Cathy Welborn

**Introduction**

Chair Nick Covatta called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. and welcomed the Commissioners to the first meeting of the 2009-2010 year. He thanked Evelia Gonzalez Porto for hosting the dinner on the previous evening.

Peggy Baggett introduced Ginger Bower, Director of the Virginia Center for Architecture, who told the group about the work of the Center and the history of building.

Vaughan Webb made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16-17, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The Commission board members and staff then introduced themselves and talked about their interests in the arts.

**Board Orientation**

An orientation for new members of the board followed.

**Update of the Guidelines for Funding**

Peggy Baggett noted that it is time to update the Commission guidelines for funding and strategic plan. With the number of new board members and the state budget cuts, she recommended that the Commission not undertake an extensive planning process. She recommended that the Commission extend the existing strategic plan for at least one year and that only minor changes in the guidelines be considered. The Commissioners agreed by consensus with this proposal.

The Commission staff will prepare and distribute a simple survey to Commission grantees to see if there are issues and concerns with the current guidelines for funding. There

will be a meeting of the Policy Committee in November to discuss responses to the survey as well as the issues already identified by the Commission for consideration. These issues include:

- raising the cap on the grant requests for General Operating Support
- raising the budget minimum for required audits
- the future of the arts education program.

The Policy Committee will also make a recommendation to the full Commission of whether any grant programs should be suspended indefinitely as a result of the state budget cuts.

### **Windmore Foundation for the Arts**

Peggy Baggett presented information on the request from the Windmore Foundation for the Arts to reconsider the grant decision made in June. The Commissioners reviewed the letter from the Windmore Executive Director. There was consensus that there is no reason to change the grant decision made in June.

### **Louisa Downtown Development Corporation/Louisa Arts Center**

Peggy Baggett gave a history of the organization and presented the request from the board of directors that the organization be allowed to apply for General Operating Support. There was consensus among the Commissioners that the organization would not be eligible for General Operating Support under its current structure.

### **Virginia Symphony**

Peggy Baggett gave an update on the Virginia Symphony, reporting that no grant funds had been released to the organization in the current year. Several Commissioners expressed concern about the future direction of the organization and asked to be kept informed.

### **News from Around the State**

Lisa Alderman reported that the Director of the William King Museum had resigned suddenly and that the board of directors is looking for an interim director.

Peggy Baggett reported that the Taubman Museum of Arts has hired a new Director.

Ann Edwards Rust reported that Ann Rodriguez has resigned as President/CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax for health reasons and that Scott Fridy would be Interim Director.

### **Old and New Business**

Deborah Wyld expressed concern that there is no Virginia representative on the current board of directors of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. She asked that the Commission discuss whether it is receiving value from its membership in this regional organization. Several Commissioners asked for additional information about how the Mid Atlantic serves Virginia.

Peggy Baggett asked that the Commissioners agree to make their email addresses public so that electronic marketing materials from arts organizations can be sent to them. Nick Covatta recommended that Commissioners who are concerned about having their email inboxes flooded with materials should set up a separate email account for communications from the arts organizations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.